

Circular Letter No. 274.

January 13, 1906.

To Superintendents.

Gentlemen:--

When the old system requiring monthly visits to each school in the district was abandoned and the time and the number of visits left to the discretion of the superintendents, it was suggested that every school should be visited in the first month of the school year. (See Circular No. 125.) It was not the intention of the Department at that time nor is it now to elevate this suggestion to an absolute rule. But I cannot escape the conviction that one of the visits to be made to the schools should always be made in at least the first term of every school year unless there are peculiar and exceptional circumstances which warrant the omission of the visit. The Superintendent should satisfy himself that the year begins right in all of his schools. To a certain extent, he can satisfy himself that the schools are going well by conversations with the teachers, especially when they have been previously employed in his district and when he is thoroughly familiar with their personal characteristics. But in every few cases should the formal inspection be omitted. If there are any schools in your district which you have not visited

during the first term you are requested to report to this Department for each school the special conditions which in your judgment have warranted the omission of the visit. Important points in this connection are the distances from head-quarters, the past record of the school and of the teacher and the question whether the teacher is new in the school. Schools, if any, which have not been visited in the first term should recieve your early attention.

A memorandum is attached to this circular of the schools in your district for which we have received no reports of visits made during the last term.

Very respectfully,

Commissioner of Education.

MWK 1476